

Intelligence Information Report



[REDACTED]

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

REPORT NO. CS-311/04435-72

DATE DISTR. 7 SEPTEMBER 1972

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI EARLY 1968

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF FOUR U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR IN PHUOC
NINH DISTRICT, TAY NINH PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM

ACQ

SOURCE

VIETNAM, SAIGON, 22 JULY 1972

1. FOUR U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (POW'S) WERE SIGHTED IN EARLY
FEBRUARY 1968 ABOUT FOUR KILOMETERS NORTH OF PHUOC TAN VILLAGE,
PHUOC NINH DISTRICT, TAY NINH PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN).
ONE OF THE POW'S WAS A MAJOR, BUT THE RANKS OF THE OTHER THREE
WERE NOT KNOWN. THEY WERE BEING GUARDED BY A SIX-MEMBER VIET
CONG (VC) ESCORT TEAM. AS A SECURITY MEASURE, THE HANDS OF

STATE DIA ARMY NAVY AIR NSA CRS (for distribution see final paragraph)

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RELEASE

ALL FOUR PRISONERS WERE TIED WITH PARACHUTE STRING, AND THEY WERE WATCHED VERY CLOSELY DURING THE REST BREAK.

2. ACCORDING TO THE LEADER OF THE VC ESCORT TEAM, THE MAJOR HAD BEEN CAPTURED ON A ROAD NEAR VC GO DAU HA DISTRICT CAPITAL, TAY NINH PROVINCE, IN EARLY 1968, WHEN HIS ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER (APC) WAS HIT BY A VC ROCKET. HE MANAGED TO JUMP CLEAR OF THE BURNING APC BUT WAS CAPTURED IMMEDIATELY. A CAPTAIN IN THE SAME APC, ALTHOUGH WOUNDED, ALSO MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THE APC, BUT WAS SHOT WHEN HE RESISTED CAPTURE.

3. AT THE TIME OF SIGHTING, THE MAJOR WAS SPEAKING CAMBODIAN TO A NUMBER OF CURIOUS VILLAGERS. HE ASKED THE VILLAGERS FOR DRINKING WATER AND TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD LEARNED CAMBODIAN DURING A PREVIOUS TOUR IN CAMBODIA. HE APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION. HE WAS ABOUT 43 YEARS OLD, ABOUT 1.63 METERS TALL, FAIR COMPLEXIONED, AND HAD A STRONG BUILD, AN OVAL FACE, A RECEDING HAIRLINE AND A CREW HAIRCUT. HE WORE REGULAR ARMY PANTS, A BLACK PAJAMA COAT AND A PAIR OF RUBBER SANDALS. COMMENT: [REDACTED] WAS SHOWN THE JOINT PRISONER RECOVERY CENTER (JPRC) ALBUM OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF CAPTURED AND MISSING PERSONNEL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA BUT WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE PRISONERS. THE JPRC COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS: "JPRC RECORDS INDICATE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT

[REDACTED] SAW MAJOR RAYMOND C. SCHRUMP, WHO WAS TAKEN PRISONER WHILE ON AN IN-FORCE RECONNAISSANCE IN THE AREA REPORTED AND WITHIN THE TIME FRAME MENTIONED. MAJOR SCHRUMP WAS FLUENT IN CAMBODIAN. THE CLOSENESS OF THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POW MAJOR DESCRIBED BY SOURCE TO THOSE OF MAJOR SCHRUMP AND THE FACT THAT ANOTHER CAUCASIAN WAS LEFT WOUNDED IN ACTION (WIA) AND NOT KILLED IN ACTION (KIA) ON THE BATTLEFIELD, FURTHER INDICATE THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOURCE SIGHTED MAJOR SCHRUMP."

4. THE OTHER THREE POW'S SIGHTED WITH THE MAJOR HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE TAN SON NHUT AREA IN SAIGON DURING THE FIRST

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ONLY ONE OF THE THREE IN ANY DETAIL. HE WAS A NEGRO ABOUT 37 YEARS OLD, ABOUT 1.75 METERS TALL, WHO HAD CURLY HAIR AND A SLIM BUILD. THE OTHER TWO PRISONERS WERE ABOUT THE SAME AGE - 38 OR 39 YEARS. ALL THREE PRISONERS WERE DRESSED IN BLACK PAJAMAS AND WORE RUBBER SANDALS. THEY SEEMED TO BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE JPRC COMMENTED THAT THE PERSON DESCRIBED COULD BE CAPTAIN WILLIAM H. HARDY, WHO HAD WORKED FOR THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) AND WHO HAD DISAPPEARED IN THE TIME FRAME REPORTED. THE JPRC FOUND THAT HARDY'S DESCRIPTION CLOSELY RESEMBLES THAT GIVEN BY [REDACTED] THE OTHER TWO POW'S CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT FULLY DESCRIBED AND BECAUSE SEVERAL CAUCASIANS WERE ABDUCTED DURING THE PERIOD INDICATED AND WERE MOVED TOWARDS THE AREA REPORTED IN PARAGRAPH ONE.)

5.

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5.

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6. DISSEM: EMBASSY, USMACV, USAID, USARV, NAVFORV,
525TH MI GP, 7602ND AIG, OSI AT SAIGON, SENT TO CINCPAC, PACFLT,
PACAF, ARPAC, SIENTIANE.

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